

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: All weather stations Statewide reported temperatures above average this past week ranging from three degrees above normal in Lakeview and Ontario, to twelve degrees above normal in Portland and The Dalles. The high temperature in southern Oregon reached into the 90's while the low temperature in south central Oregon dipped into the 20's. There were only trace amounts of precipitation reported in a few weather stations. The largest amounts were reported in the Astoria and Joseph stations; both with 0.06 inches.

Field Crops: In western Oregon, hay and grain crops advanced ahead of normal due to above average temperatures. Grains were growing well. Some grass seed cultivars heading. The first of the grass hay was ready for harvest. Crimson clover was nearing full bloom. Red clover and alfalfa were growing rapidly. Mint was up and looking nice, although there was some rust noted. Application for rust control to begin shortly. Most crops continued to look good. Spring fieldwork in eastern Oregon continued with much of it shifting to fertilizing. Some spring seeding still going on and earlier seeded spring crops have emerged and are looking green. Winter wheat put on height fast and looked very good. Field work included moldboard plowing and weed spraying. Some central Oregon growers experienced mite damage in orchardgrass and timothy grass hay fields. Grass hay was starting to head out and some alfalfa was at late vegetative growth stage. Some hay may be harvested in the second week of May. First cutting of alfalfa hay began in Malheur County; corn planting is drawing to a close. All crops appear to be progressing well.

Vegetables: In the Willamette Valley, vegetable growers were busy with early plantings. Washington County reported that green peas were showing good growth and that rhubarb was doing well. In Jackson and Josephine counties, truck gardeners were preparing their fields, planting sweet corn and tomatoes, and getting irrigation equipment ready. Baker and Klamath counties reported work had begun in potato fields.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries continued to ship plant material to the eastern states, mainly balled and burlaped plants and containers. Local greenhouses were supplying retail outlets with spring plant and reported sales at retail outlets was very brisk. Christmas tree spraying for weeds was underway and most Christmas tree species are showing new growth. The warm temperatures required nurseries to start irrigation. Easter Lily field work began and work in beds consisted of weeding and roguing.

Fruit and Nuts: Strawberries were in full bloom throughout the Willamette Valley. Caneberries were in bloom in some counties with others to begin shortly. Raspberries and blackberries were also in bloom. Apples were nearly finished with bloom. Strong winds toppled a number of sweet cherry trees in The Dalles area. The cherry crop could be as much as two weeks early this year in Wasco County. Hood River County pear, apple, and cherry bloom was completed for the season. Southern coast Stevens variety cranberry beds were in hook stage.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Scattered precipitation across the State improved pasture and rangeland conditions in areas fortunate enough to receive moisture. Many pastures were maintaining a fair condition with additional precipitation needed soon to sustain favorable conditions into the summer months. Some areas in eastern Oregon, which recently reported fair conditions, were now reporting 30% dry and brown conditions on rangeland. Some early season weed control was reported for pastures in western Oregon. Livestock were reported in good condition and were being turned out across the State.

Crop Progress - Week Ending 5/2/04

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley planted (%)	85	82	68	85
Barley emerged (%)	63	52	46	—
Spring wheat planted (%)	95	92	89	94
Spring wheat emerged (%)	80	71	59	—
Winter wheat headed (%)	2	0	0	—
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.5	5.2	4.6	—

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 5/2/04

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	2	25	70	3
Subsoil (%)	4	28	63	5

Crop Condition - Week Ending 5/2/04

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	0	8	41	38	13
Barley (%)	0	2	44	35	19
Range & Pasture (%)	3	8	36	44	9

CLACKAMAS: Hay and grain crops are advancing ahead of normal due to the much above average temperatures. Fertilizing and spraying mostly finished. Fruit set is good on most tree fruits. Strawberries in full bloom. Caneberry bloom to start shortly. Vegetable planting is progressing on schedule. Nursery irrigation underway due to lack of rain. Greenhouse products are moving to local outlets and then rapidly on to the consumers. Livestock have enjoyed a spring with a minimum of muddy conditions. Pastures have produced good early forage but will need rain to carry it into the summer.

COOS/CURRY: Topsoil moisture estimate: 95% adequate, 5% surplus. Seven days were suitable for fieldwork in Coos and Curry counties during the week. Berry crops: Many 'Stevens' cranberry beds were in hook stage; first brood blackheaded fireworm larvae were in late stages of development; scale insects were causing problems in scattered spots within some cranberry beds. Specialty crops: Easter lily growers in Curry county were plowing and disking cover crops; field work in Easter lily beds consisted of weeding and roguing; botrytis, a fungus, was observed on some plants. Livestock: good. Pastures: grass growth coming on strong; pasture weed control in progress; some fields were being worked up for silage corn plantings. Weather: dry with warm temperatures and abundant sunshine. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 54.9 to 57.9 deg F; highs ranged from 75.1 to 75.3 deg F, and lows ranged from 42.2 to 44.5 deg F. No precipitation recorded in the area for the week. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 58 GDD at Bandon to 68 GDD at Brookings-Harbor.

JACKSON: Grains growing well but showing some moisture stress. First of grass hay ready for harvest. First cover sprays for codling moth control started. Sweet corn being planted. Garden tomatoes being transplanted.

JOSEPHINE: Unseasonably warm and dry with winds. Broke records for highs the first of the week. All temperatures were above normal. Bees have been working the blueberries and fruit trees, holly and madrone and anything else that still has flowers on it. Truck gardeners are working feverishly. Planting, ground preparation, irrigation equipment readied. Some hay fields are now under irrigation. Nursery sales are brisk.

LANE/LINN/BENTON: Mint is up and looking nice. Grass seed - some cultivars heading. Prunes - nice set of fruit. Peaches - varied fruit set. Cherries - nice set but waiting for late May fruit drop. Pears - nice set. Apples - ending full bloom, looks like nice crop. Hazelnuts - mediocre bloom so anticipating mediocre crop. Blueberries, strawberries, and blackberries - growing nicely. Strawberries - early crop coming on this weekend. Lots of vegetable planting going on. Full production of nursery and greenhouse. Cold weather ceased a lot of selling.

MARION: Caneberries and strawberries are in full bloom and looking good. Most crops continue to look pretty good, with some progressing faster than most years. Recent warm, dry weather has been a major reason for the advanced growth but we need more rainfall. A few grass pastures/fields have been cut for hay, dairies are taking green chop from a number of grass crops. Mint and grass seed growers either have made some fungicide applications for rust control or will begin shortly. A fair bit of rust being seen in both crops.

WASHINGTON: Crimson clover nearing full bloom. Red clover and alfalfa growing rapidly. Grass for seed heading. Grains mostly disease free. Strawberries blooming; raspberries and blackberries showing blooms. Blueberries have blooms and honey bees are placed in fields. Early plantings beginning; green peas showing good growth; rhubarb doing well. Irrigating and rotation of potted plants; pruning continues. Pastures holding up and doing well with rotation. Irrigating blueberries.

YAMHILL: The warm weather this week following all of the warm weather of last week really put a growth spurt on everything! Crops look good at this point.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Potato planting has begun. Branding and turnout continue. Quite variable weather, 75 degrees one day and snow the next. We got a little much needed moisture.

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: Winter grain mite damage has been fairly extensive across the three central Oregon counties of Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson on orchardgrass and timothy grass hay fields. Deschutes and Jefferson counties have had damage in previous years, but this was the first year that Crook county has experienced this amount of damage. Part of April was cool, but part was very warm. A number of fields were just being irrigated this last week and this coming week across the three counties. Grass hay across central Oregon is starting to head out (mostly in Jefferson County) and some alfalfa is at late vegetative growth stage. Some hay may be harvested in the second week of May in central Oregon, especially if the weather stays warm the first part of May. A very warm March, with no precipitation, probably caused a fair amount of moisture stress to some winter wheat, grass and alfalfa hay fields and bluegrass seed fields, until the irrigation water was turned on. Tiller abortion probably happened. This was especially true in Jefferson County. Yields may be affected by this, and hay harvest may commence sooner than usual. Central Oregon had a wet winter and precipitation filled up the soil profile, but we lost that advantage with the warm March with some of the perennial crops.

GILLIAM: Most spring seeded acreage has emerged with warmer temperatures.

HARNEY: Turnout near completion. Irrigation water somewhat limited because of the lack of spring runoff. Irrigating of alfalfa and meadows in full swing. Some spring grains still being planted. Most livestock turned out. Wind beginning of week - cold still freezing at night.

HOOD RIVER: Pear, apple, and cherry bloom have been completed for the season. Fair weather has kept disease risk low. Mild temperatures have eliminated the need for frost protection except in the upper Hood River Valley. The codling moth biofix for the OSU-MCAREC was determined to be 4/24.

KLAMATH: Warm weather continues. Irrigation has started earlier than normal. Work has begun in potato fields. Grain and other spring seeded crops have emerged. Spring planting progressing well. Potatoes receiving seed and cutting. Field preparation continues. Most local cattle on irrigated pasture. Movement from winter pasture in California continues.

MALHEUR: No rain last week. Plenty of warm temperatures. The first cutting of alfalfa has begun in the Adrian area. Corn planting is drawing to a close. The rangeland needs a "drink"! All crops progressing well. No severe adverse conditions. Irrigation required on all crops. High temperatures above normal for last few days.

MORROW: We had good moisture the last 2 weeks of April. It helped a lot as we had very little in March and the first part of April. If we can get a couple more timely rains we will be ok.

SHERMAN: Spring fieldwork continues, shifting to fertilizing. Some spring seeding still going but winding down. Weed spraying. Cheat grass, foxtail, rigput all heading 10-14 days early but wheat development is behind schedule. Showers last week helped roots find nitrogen, so some color is coming back in plants. Rain patterns and amount vary considerably from area to area, even over short distances. Have seen six ponds with standing water in them for the first time in six years, but also saw signs of drought stress in winter wheat. Looks like good year for spring seeded grains. Some range ground still not recovered from burn three years ago, limiting grazing capacity.

UMATILLA: A wind storm recording gust of 60+ MPH caused some damage to some farm structures. Some frost, but no serious damage. All crops are behind schedule because of the cool weather this spring.

UNION: Weather continues to fluctuate in Eastern Oregon. Some cold days, some hot days. One day of spotty rainfall but little other moisture. Ranchers are beginning to move herds to summer grazing areas. Fruit orchards are in bloom. Irrigation systems are beginning to run throughout the Grande Ronde Valley. Most spring planting is complete.

WALLOWA: Warmer temperatures during the week should help range conditions and spring planted crops. Some moisture received mid-week, but not enough.

WASCO: Cherry crop looks moderately heavy. We may be as much as two weeks earlier than last year. The winter wheat crop is putting on height fast and looks very good except south slopes. Field work included moldboard plowing and weed spraying on both no-till stubble fields, plus eradicating weeds in the current wheat crop was active all week. Spring seeding nearing completion and early spring seeded fields are turning green. Strong winds hit Wasco County Tuesday night and a number of trees were toppled in The Dalles area. Alfalfa crops are in the bud stage and first hay cutting is expected in the next two weeks. Cherries are developing rapidly. Orchard activities this week included mowing grass strips between tree rows, and some spraying. Pastures grasses still flushing in growth and starting to head out. Rangeland that was solid green several weeks ago are showing 30% brown areas. All livestock are doing well.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING April 18, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	37	77	50	2	8	1	1.48	0.54	4	55.86	-2.15	96	155
Crescent City	40	65	53	2	21	-6	0.84	-0.03	2	51.75	-7.39	88	127
Florence	34	77	49	-1	9	-5	2.73	1.66	4	65.81	-1.73	97	149
North Bend	43	68	51	1	8	-6	2.64	1.72	3	60.76	3.84	107	144
Tillamook	32	71	49	1	3	-4	2.80	1.58	6	73.28	-3.70	95	161
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	36	79	52	3	19	-1	1.17	0.66	3	28.29	-9.56	75	111
Eugene	36	73	50	-2	6	-16	1.88	1.27	3	34.78	-9.09	79	124
Hillsboro	34	79	51	0	13	-8	0.76	0.34	5	27.71	-5.01	85	130
McMinnville	32	80	50	-1	11	-10	0.63	0.14	3	29.37	-9.40	76	127
Portland AP	38	81	54	3	28	2	0.46	-0.03	4	25.75	-5.01	84	124
Salem	36	78	51	1	12	-6	1.28	0.79	4	33.76	-0.58	98	133
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	38	72	52	-3	21	-18	0.89	0.54	4	26.70	-1.74	94	103
Medford	38	86	54	2	29	-4	0.41	0.17	4	17.73	1.36	108	101
Roseburg AP	40	82	52	0	25	-6	1.26	0.81	4	30.48	1.37	105	122
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	31	64	45	-2	0	-7	0.37	0.09	5	13.74	3.24	131	76
Heppner	33	66	48	-2	5	-16	0.69	0.41	5	10.99	0.66	106	100
Hermiston AP	32	73	50	-4	9	-25	0.33	0.19	4	8.07	0.91	113	73
John Day	30	72	46	-3	2	-12	0.45	0.17	4	7.65	-1.12	87	89
Moro	30	66	47	-1	2	-12	0.47	0.33	4	9.57	0.67	108	75
Pendleton AP	35	73	50	-2	10	-18	0.48	0.27	3	10.30	0.91	110	78
The Dalles	34	78	54	5	27	10	0.35	0.21	4	12.21	1.85	118	91
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	26	62	42	-4	0	-12	0.24	0.10	3	10.54	1.62	118	68
Burns AP	26	70	45	0	0	-7	0.16	0.02	2	6.89	-0.11	98	68
Klamath Falls	28	74	44	-3	5	-9	0.32	0.18	3	10.59	-0.32	97	87
Lakeview	23	70	44	-2	2	-5	0.05	-0.23	2	8.17	-3.81	68	51
Redmond	25	74	45	-2	0	-13	0.15	0.01	4	7.26	1.21	120	70
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	26	69	44	-3	0	-14	0.44	0.23	3	4.95	-1.64	75	69
Joseph	28	66	42	0	0	-3	0.67	0.25	4	9.06	-9.84	48	89
La Grande AP	30	68	46	-3	1	-14	0.66	0.31	4	8.42	-4.30	66	76
Union	33	65	46	-2	0	-14	0.78	0.50	4	9.65	0.81	109	93
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	36	72	52	-2	18	-20	0.68	0.54	3	6.89	-0.62	92	54
Rome	30	73	48	-1	4	-17	0.53	0.35	3	4.29	-1.06	80	53

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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